



E-NEWS from *Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn*

An electronic legislative update for July 25, 2002

Did you know?



On Tuesday, July 23, Jennifer, who is a Member of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, served as a panel member at a trade forum in Washington, DC. Also on the panel was Former US Trade Representative and Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor (not pictured) and Bruce Stokes of the National Journal (pictured left of Jennifer.) Both Kantor and Jennifer discussed the importance of granting the President trade promotion authority, which allows trade deals to be approved by Congress on a straight, up-or-down vote. House and Senate leaders are currently working on a compromise between respective versions of the bill. Jennifer said she is optimistic that a final TPA compromise bill will pass Congress and be signed by the President before the end of the year.

- ✓ One in three jobs in Washington State is related to trade.
- ✓ Last year, American farmers exported \$55 billion in agricultural products and crops.
- ✓ Small business is the backbone of our nation's economy, creating 3 of every 4 jobs and generating nearly ½ of the US private gross domestic product.
- ✓ 97 percent of America's exporters are small businesses.
- ✓ Trade promotes growth and creates stronger partners for regional stability.

What is going on this week?

US HOUSE PASSES BILL TO IMPROVE PIPELINE SAFETY, Bill Includes Dunn-Larsen Proposals

In a vote of 423-4, the US House passed a bill that will improve pipeline safety and prevent accidents similar to the 1999 Bellingham pipeline explosion that killed three children. The legislation was authored by Chairman of the House Transportation Committee Don Young and includes several provisions from pipeline safety legislation authored by Jennifer and Congressman Rick Larsen. Following House approval of the bill, Jennifer said, ““I am committed to helping Washington families feel secure in their homes and communities. For over three years, we have worked to pass a bill that will protect our communities. This is a good bill that is the result of years of behind-the-scenes work and negotiations” *(See related press release summary for details of legislation.)*

US HOUSE APPROVES EMERGENCY SPENDING BILL TO SUPPORT, ENHANCE HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS

The US House overwhelmingly approved a bill that will provide emergency dollars to help enhance our nation’s homeland and national security efforts. The \$28.9 billion provides funds for the Department of Defense, Office of Homeland Security, and dollars for New York for expenses related to the September 11 attacks. The bill also provides for the Pell Grant program for college students and for veterans’ medical care. The Senate is also expected to pass the bill this week so the President can sign it as soon as possible.

US HOUSE APPROVES MEASURE TO ALLOW US TO CONTINUE TRADING WITH VIETNAM

With Jennifer’s support, the House approved a measure that upholds the President’s decision to allow Vietnamese markets to remain open to American businesses. A 30 year-old trade act limits US trade with communist nations, but allows the President to waive trade restrictions. The House voted to support the President’s recent decision to allow trade with Vietnam. As political relations between the US and Vietnam continue to become stronger, Vietnam provides American businesses with vast opportunities for trade. Jennifer believes that expanded foreign trade opportunities will help strengthen Washington State’s cool economy.

US HOUSE VOTES TO EXPEL CONVICTED MEMBER, JAMES TRAFICANT FROM CONGRESS

In a vote of 420 –1, the US House voted to expel Ohio Congressman James Traficant from Congress. A federal grand jury recently found Traficant guilty of 10 counts of fraud, bribery and abuse of power. Members of Congress, including Jennifer, believe that public servants should be held to high standards and that a conviction from a federal court justifies expulsion from Congress.

What we did last week:

US HOUSE PASSED FISCAL YEAR 2003 POSTAL SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY SPENDING BILL

The US House approved the fiscal year 2003 Treasury, Postal spending measure. Nearly one quarter of funds in the bill will strengthen homeland security by modernizing US Customs Service information systems that are critical for border security. The spending bill also includes an increase in funding to fight drug trafficking in areas that suffer from 'high intensity' drug traffic and it provides dollars to help the IRS continue upgrading its information technology system so that it is more helpful to American taxpayers.

US HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO ENHANCE CYBER SECURITY

The "Cyber Security Enhancement Act of 2002" has been approved by the US House. The bill helps protect the privacy of individuals who use computers in their homes and it saves taxpayers millions of dollars by cracking down on hackers who break into corporate and government computer systems. The bill increased penalties for cybercrimes to better reflect the seriousness of the crime and it makes it easier for local law enforcement agencies to gather information about cyber criminals.

HOUSE VOTES ON BILL TO HELP STUDENTS, MINORITIES OBTAIN STUDENT LOANS PASSES US HOUSE

Last week, Jennifer voted in support of a bill that would help students receive their student loans disbursements faster and helps students avoid defaulting on their student loans. While the bill received the support of a majority of House Members, it failed to receive the required 2/3 majority for passage. (Please note that last week's e-news incorrectly reported that this legislation passed the House)

Summary of Press Releases

US HOUSE APPROVES PIPELINE SAFETY BILL

The US House passed a bill to improve pipeline safety and prevent accidents similar to the 1999 Bellingham pipeline explosion that killed three children. The legislation was authored by Chairman of the House Transportation Committee Don Young and includes several provisions from pipeline safety legislation authored by Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn and Congressman Rick Larsen. In a speech to Congress, Congresswoman Dunn said, *"In Washington State, we have been working on this issue ever since three young boys were tragically killed by a pipeline explosion. This legislation includes several meaningful changes that will improve pipeline safety and prevent such tragic losses in the future."*

Highlights of the bill are as follows:

- It requires inspection of gas pipelines every five years.
- It establishes a program to certify that critical pipeline employees are qualified to do their jobs.
- It increases penalties for pipeline safety violations.
- It provides for increased state oversight of pipelines.